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People Profile: Constance Rinaldo

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result searches can represent a negative user micro-interaction with a resource, and it would be encouraging to that user to have a system that is responsive to the need described in the search. We recognize that it may not be possible or desirable to eliminate zero result searches, and that was not the goal of the project.

One reason that null searches may have remained steady in spite of the growth of the digital resources in DLESE might be that during the time of this study, collection development changed from adding one record at a time to batch loading of collection, and in one example during this time, DLESE added over 1000 records with the same metadata. In that case, the numbers increased by 1000 but the variety did not. The kind of collection assessment described here focused on the need to add breadth to the collection rather than depth. Other factors in the steady state of the null search percents are the interaction of the user and the search system. It is possible that there is some sort of expected percent of zero result searches across time in this type of digital library.

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against the grain people profile

Constance Rinaldo

Librarian of the Ernst Mayr Library Museum of Comparative Zoology
Harvard University, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-4576 Fax: (617) 496-6838
<crinaldo@oeb.harvard.edu> <http://library.mcz.harvard.edu>

BORN & LIVED: Born Tacoma, Washington grew up in Boston MA; lived in Oregon, Illinois, Maryland, Vermont and New Hampshire (currently).

EDUCATION: BA in Biology and Anthropology, **University of MA/Boston**; MS in Zoology, **University of Connecticut**; MLS **University of Maryland**.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: **National Agricultural Library** Intern 1988-1989, **Dartmouth College Biomedical Libraries** 1989-1999; **Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology** 1999-present.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Hike, garden, read and watch my kids perform in the circus.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *My Family and Other Animals* by **Gerald Durrell**; *All Creatures Great and Small* by **James Herriot**; *Pride and Prejudice* by **Jane Austen**.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: More social networking via libraries; increased educational functions, more and better filtering of information, better management of and access to electronic resources. 

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Changing the way Libraries and Faculty Assess Periodical Collections in the Electronic Age

by **Jenica Rogers** (Collection Development Coordinator and Technical Services Librarian, SUNY Potsdam) <rogersjp@potsdam.edu>

Background

Libraries have been struggling with a period of transition for the past ten years. It became clear in the mid 1990s that the emergence of the Internet as an information stream would reshape and reframe our professional values and practices, but for the most part libraries simply had to wait and see exactly how that would happen. As librarians have struggled to predict the future and act accordingly, we've had ample time to observe what has come to pass. We now know that the Internet had a profound effect on the production and distribution of scholarly information, and changed the user's expectation

of information delivery equally dramatically. At the same time, library budgets were strained by depressed economics in higher education, and the emergence of online information resources, coupled with the rising costs of periodicals, increased that constraint. As user expectations have changed, and purchasing power has shrunk, libraries have struggled to balance traditional collecting habits with emerging patterns in our information culture.

Speaking practically, as budgets remained flat and the need for online content increased, libraries curtailed monograph purchasing, and have been forced to cut their periodicals sub-

scriptions. Each year, as prices rise, and acknowledging the overlap of most online resources with traditional print periodicals, libraries have turned to their print subscriptions to create budget flexibility, cutting the least used titles and the lower-demand niche titles from the collection.

Today many libraries have reached the point at which they can no longer comfortably or responsibly reduce their print periodical holdings

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